

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Government's Policy on Food Seizures

Inquiries have been received from time to time as to the general policy of the Department of Agriculture in making seizures under the Food and Drugs Act. According to an announcement by the Bureau of Chemistry, it has been the Department's consistent policy for more than a decade to bring seizures only under one or more of the following four conditions:

1. In the case of food products containing an added poisonous or otherwise deleterious ingredient which may be harmful to health.

2. In the case of food products consisting in whole or in part of a filthy, decomposed, putrid animal or vegetable substance or any portion of an animal unfit for food, or a product of a diseased animal or one that has died otherwise than by slaughter.

3. In the case of food and drug products grossly misbranded with false and fraudulent claims so that their distribution is an imposition on the public.

4. In the shipment of adulterated or misbranded food and drug products seriously demoralizing to legitimate trade practices.

House Passes Sugar Bill

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed, without a record vote, the bill amending the Food and Drugs Act by providing that confectionary, frozen products, products of the

bakery, meat or meat products, shall not be deemed to be misbranded under the provisions of the Act for failure to disclose the presence of sucrose, dextrose, maltose or levulose.

As mentioned in Information Letter No. 156, the Senate sometime ago passed a bill (S. 481) providing that food products shall not be deemed to be adulterated or misbranded because of having been preserved or sweetened with an article commonly known as corn sugar (dextrose), or with an article known as fruit sugar (levulose).

The House bill, in effect, makes no change in the present laws and regulations with regard to the use of sugars in canned foods. The Senate bill, on the other hand, would permit the use of corn sugar or fruit sugar without special labeling. In event the Senate refuses to approve the bill in the form passed by the House, the measure will go to conference.

Labeling Succotash Made With Other Than Lima Beans

The following excerpts from a letter received by the Association from the Bureau of Chemistry give its attitude on the labeling of succotash made with beans other than lima beans:

"You are undoubtedly correct in advising that the flageolet bean is not to be regarded as a lima bean. The lima is *Phaseolus lunatus* while the flageolet is *Phaseolus vulgaris*. The pictorial design on the label submitted, which shows a lima bean apparently in the succulent stage, is therefore improper. You refer to a ruling by the Bureau of Chemistry that succotash is regarded as a mixture of corn and lima beans. We believe that the Bureau's opinion referred to by you was not intended so much to lay down a strict definition for succotash as to indicate the Bureau's views regarding the labeling of succotash made with corn and dried lima beans. Certainly Food Inspection Decision 71, which is the first announcement of the Bureau on succotash, does not restrict the use of this term from a product made from lima beans and green corn, but defines the product as one composed of green corn and green beans. Popular understanding of the name appears to differ in different localities and it is true, therefore, that we can not deny the name 'succotash' to mixtures of corn and beans, other than lima.

"We believe, however, that so far as the canned article is concerned there is a pretty general understanding on the part of the trade and consuming public that the term succotash does mean a corn and lima bean product. The principal purpose of the labeling provisions of the Food and Drugs Act is to prevent

deception. While we can not deny the name succotash to the product the * * * proposes to make, we believe that it is only proper to insist, in the interest of that full information which the consumer requires to prevent deception, that in addition to the name succotash sufficient supplementary information shall be given to distinguish the article from the corn and lima bean article. This, we presume, might be done by making an appropriate change in the pictorial design of the label and changing the explanatory expression to read: 'Prepared from green sweet corn and soaked dried flageolet beans.' There may be some more satisfactory and enlightening term than flageolet beans which could be used in this expression, that is, one which is more commonly used in the trade or by the public. If so, the substitution of this name for flageolet beans will be satisfactory."

Navy Department Asks Bids on Canned Foods

The Navy Department is asking for bids on canned beef tongues (Schedule 5587 to be opened July 20), canned figs (Schedule 5595 to be opened July 20) and canned peas (Schedule 5598 to be opened July 27). The canned tongue is for delivery as follows: 35,000 pounds at Brooklyn, 60,000 pounds at Hampton Roads, 60,000 pounds at Mare Island, and 35,000 pounds at Bremerton, Washington. The schedule for canned figs calls for bids on 200,000 pounds for delivery at Mare Island, and the canned peas are for delivery, 40,000 pounds at Boston, 80,000 pounds at Brooklyn and 510,000 pounds at Hampton Roads.

Salmon Export Corporation Formed

The Salmon Export Corporation, of Seattle, Washington, has filed papers under the Export Trade Act (Webb-Pomerene law) with the Federal Trade Commission, for the purpose of exporting salmon.

The principal office of the corporation will be in Seattle, Washington. The officers are: D. E. Skinner, president; L. J. Hull, vice-president; P. J. Andrae, secretary; and G. L. Wakeman, treasurer. Member companies are: Alaska Consolidated Canneries, Sunny Point Packing Company, Petersburg Packing Co., Stuart Corporation, Pioneer Sea Food Co., Emel Packing Co., Pyramid Packing Co., Alitak Packing Co., Carlisle Packing Co., Hidden Inlet Canning Co., Shepard Point Packing Co., Pioneer Packing Co., Deep Sea Salmon Co., Copper River Packing Co., Kadiak Fisheries Co., George T. Myers & Co., all of Seattle, Washington; Astoria & Pudget Sound Pack-

ing Co., of S. Bellingham, Washington; and North Pacific Trading & Packing Co., of San Francisco, California.

Varieties of Beans for Canning

In connection with a discussion of varieties of green and wax beans at the meeting of the Maine Cannery Association, the Raw Products Bureau presented the results of a survey among seedsmen of the varieties that are most popular with canners. The following table indicates the seedsmen by number and shows the percentage of the varieties listed represented in each of the seedsmen's sales to canners. Where two columns are given for a single seedsmen, the percentages for green and wax varieties are stated separately.

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 3	No. 4
	%	%	%	%	%
Stringless Green Refugee	35.00	40	2	..	80
Refugee 1000-1 .....	.30	..	14	..	6
Burpee's Stringless Green Pod	26.40	..	45	..	..
Giant Stringless Green Pod	16.00	..	20	..	10
Full Measure	7.00	..	4	..	3
Bountiful	1.25	..	13	..	..
Low's Champion	2.00	6	2	..	1
Crystal White Wax .....	..	..	..	1	..
Golden Wax Improved	1.00	..	..	49	..
Stringless Refugee Wax	8.00	16	..	4	..
Wardwell's Kidney Wax	2.00	1	..	16	..
Keeney's White Seeded Stringless Refugee Wax .....	..	11	..	..	..
Burpee's Kidney Wax .....	.05	22	..	..	..
Round Pod Kidney Wax	1.00	4	..	30	..

	No. 4	No. 5	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7
	%	%	%	%	%
Stringless Green Refugee .....	..	10	..	64.0	3.48
Refugee 100-1 .....	..	5	..	.6	.35
Burpee's Stringless Green Pod .....	..	45	..	4.0	76.45
Giant Stringless Green Pod .....	..	25	..	2.0	13.90
Full Measure .....	..	15	..	..	..
Kidney Wax .....	..	..	60	..	..
Golden Wax Improved	40	..	30	23.0	..
Stringless Refugee Wax	12	..	..	6.0	4.52
Wardwell's Kidney Wax	3	..	..	.4	..
Burpee's Kidney Wax	40	..	..	..	1.16
Round Pod Kidney Wax	5	..	..	..	..
Michigan White Wax .....	..	..	10	..	..
Longfellow .....	..	..	..	..	.14

Canning Crops Improvement Work in Pennsylvania

The Raw Products Bureau recently participated in a conference at State College, Pa., between the officers of the Pennsylvania Agricultural College and Experiment Station and a committee from the Pennsylvania Canners Association, to discuss ways and means by which the College authorities might render additional service to the canners and their growers in connection with the general effort to improve the quality of canners' crops and to put into practice the most effective methods of production.

The interest centered principally on peas, corn, and tomatoes. The Experiment Station has been conducting breeding experiments with tomatoes for several years and has developed some strains of outstanding merit. Most canners have not been aware of this work, but as a result of the conference it is planned to carry on demonstrations in the tomato-growing counties, at which the State College strains will be grown for comparison with the varieties which canners have been using, to determine those having the best type and yield to meet the canners' requirements.

The State College Extension Service plans, as a result of the conference, to cooperate with the canners in making a study of the methods of the most successful growers so that such methods can be put into more general practice another year.

A special study will also be made of occurrence of anthracnose and other diseases on canners' beans, and the College has promised to lend its good offices in securing certified disease-free bean seed for the canners of the state.

Methods of growing tomato plants, caring for plant beds, and a study of tomato, sweet corn, and bean fertilizers were also included in the program of cooperative work discussed at this meeting. The canners were received very cordially by the State College authorities, and it is hoped that valuable service may grow out of the contacts which are now being established.

Car Loadings

Loadings of revenue freight for the week ended June 5 fell below the million mark reached in previous weeks, largely because of the observance of a holiday on June 1. The total loadings were 945,964 cars, which is a decrease of 135,200 cars under the preceding week and of 52,279 cars below the corresponding week last year.

Proposed Amendment to Labeling Law

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has favorably reported H. R. 12315, introduced by Representative Swing, which would amend the Food and Drugs Act so that nuts, raw fruits and raw vegetables, grown outside the United States and its territories, shall be deemed to be misbranded if there be not plainly and conspicuously stated on the package or label (a) the name of the country where grown in letters at least as large as those in the name of any other place on such package or label, and (b) the common name and the quantity by weight or volume of any such products if commingled with nuts, raw fruits or raw vegetables, grown in Continental United States.

In the report of the House Committee it is pointed out that H. R. 12315 has the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, who in a letter to the Committee stated that this measure is much narrower in scope than a previous bill (H. R. 10898), since its terms are applicable only to nuts, raw fruits and raw vegetables. The Secretary of Agriculture states that the Department favors any legislation designed to furnish more information to the buyers of food and permit more intelligent and discriminatory purchases.

Canning Crop Conditions

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, under date of June 4, issued a statement on the condition of truck crops for manufacture as of June 1, as compared with the same date last year and the average for the last eight years on that date. The figures for the United States as a whole follow:

	Condition June 1		
	1925	1926	8-year average
Snap beans	86%	85%	85%
Sweet corn	82	86	83
Green peas	81	86	86
Tomatoes	79	77	80

The Bureau also issued revised estimates on the acreage of green peas for manufacture, which indicate that the acreage for 1926 will be 209,740 as compared with 232,950 acres in 1925. The indicated yield, based on the condition reported as of June 1, is one ton per acre as compared with 0.9 ton in 1925. This yield forecasts a production of 218,700 tons in 1926 as compared with 215,400 tons in 1925.

Trend of Prices

There was a slight increase in the general level of wholesale prices from April to May, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Farm products, clothing materials, metals, building materials, and house-furnishing goods were somewhat cheaper, but the prices in other groups showed sufficient increase to more than offset the decrease in the groups named.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows for May 15, 1926, a decrease of about three-fourths of one per cent since April 15, 1926; an increase of over six and a quarter per cent since May, 1925; and an increase of sixty-six and two-thirds per cent since May 15, 1913.

Reprints of Article on Salmon Available

The article on "Salmon in a Diet for the Prophylaxis of Goiter," by Norman D. Jarvis, Ray W. Clough, and Ernest D. Clark, which originally appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association for May 1, has been reprinted in separate form, and copies are available from the Northwest Branch, National Cannery Association, Seattle, Washington.

French Commercial Attache Proffers Service

In acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Association's Membership Directory the Commercial Attache of the French Embassy, who is located at 46 East 25th Street, New York City, writes:

"I would appreciate your advising your members that I shall always be glad to have them call on me if I can be of any assistance to them."

Australian Canning Crops Growers Organize

Organization of the Australian Canning Fruit Growers Association may serve to remedy the present unorganized conditions of the canning trade in that country, according to a report to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The Association will negotiate with the various governments and canning companies for sales and prices of growers' fruit. The areas covered by the association are in New South Wales and Victoria, and affect most of the larger canneries in those states. They have instituted an advertising campaign planning to increase the sales of canned fruits in Australia.

Abstracts of Canning Technology

With last week's Information Letter were mailed copies of No. 4, Volume III, Abstracts of Canning Technology. If any members failed to receive their copy of the bulletin, they are requested to notify the Association in order that another may be sent.

Tariff Changes Proposed in Czechoslovakia

According to the terms of a bill recently introduced into the Czechoslovak Parliament, among other reductions in duties, it is proposed to reduce the rate on canned meats from 270 to 180 crowns per 100 kilos; and on condensed and evaporated milk from 780 to 360 crowns.

Pineapple Prospects in Sumatra

According to a report from the American Consul at Medan, Sumatra, there is no reason why pineapple production in Sumatra may not be comparable to that of Straits Settlements. Pineapple of good flavor is now widely grown in small areas in Sumatra, land tenures are considered safe, and the government is anxious to facilitate the investment of foreign capital in plantations for tropical products.